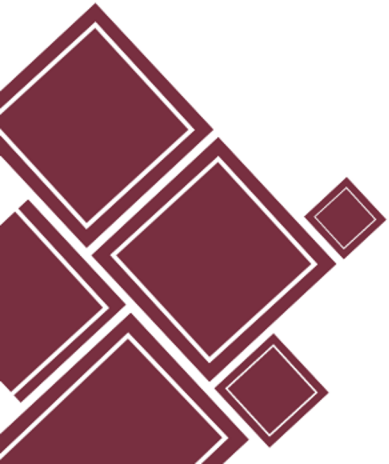


# Disaster Risk Finance Capacity Building Program: Politics & Disaster Response

## *Case Studies from Asia*

Dr Caroline Brassard  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy



# Global deaths from natural disasters, by type (1900-2016)

Global annual deaths from natural catastrophes, differentiated by disaster type from 1900 to 2016. The size of the bubble represents the total death count per year.

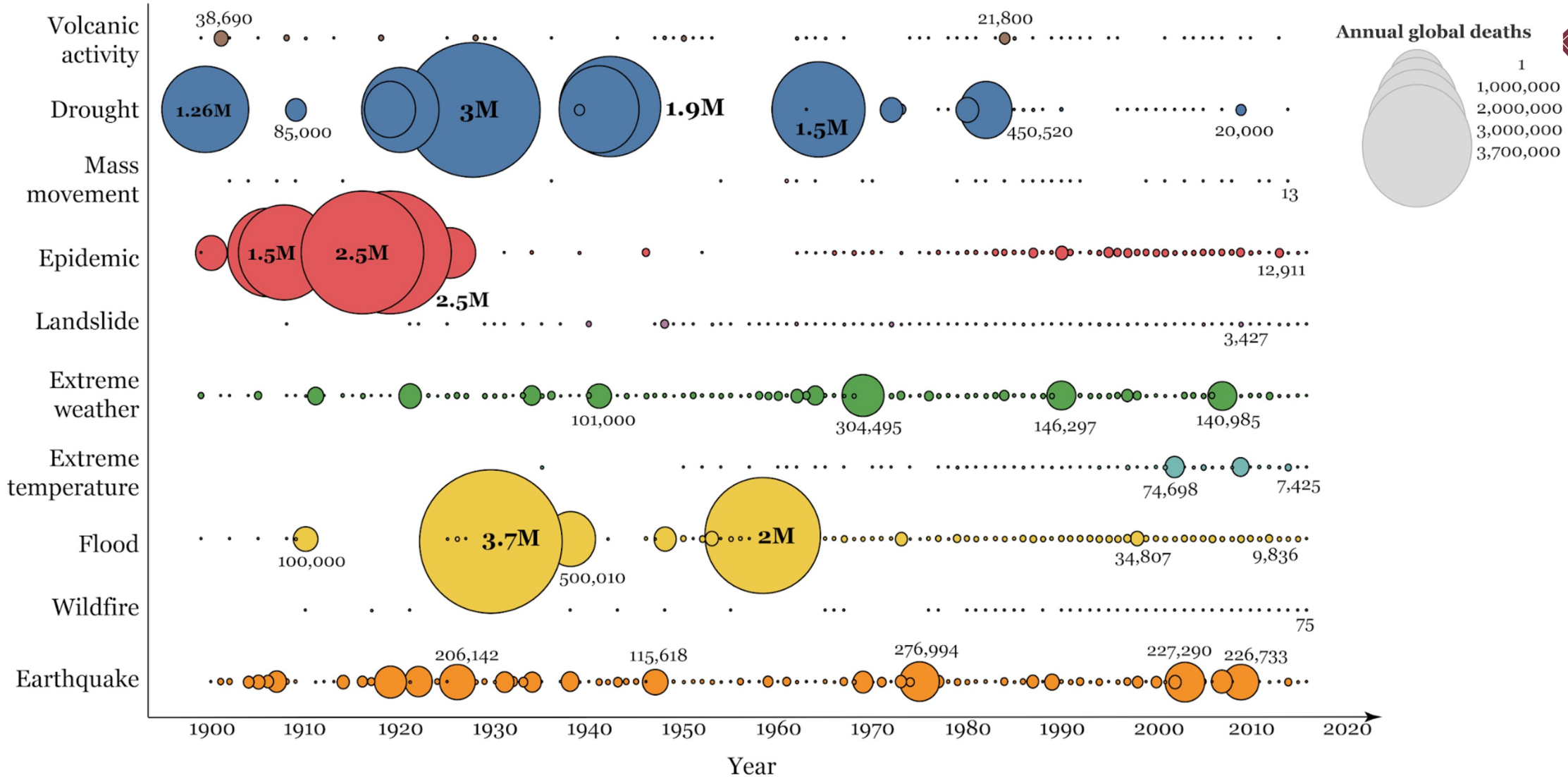


Figure II: The Global Risks Landscape 2020



# Climate change: Extreme weather events are 'the new norm'

By Matt McGrath  
Environment correspondent

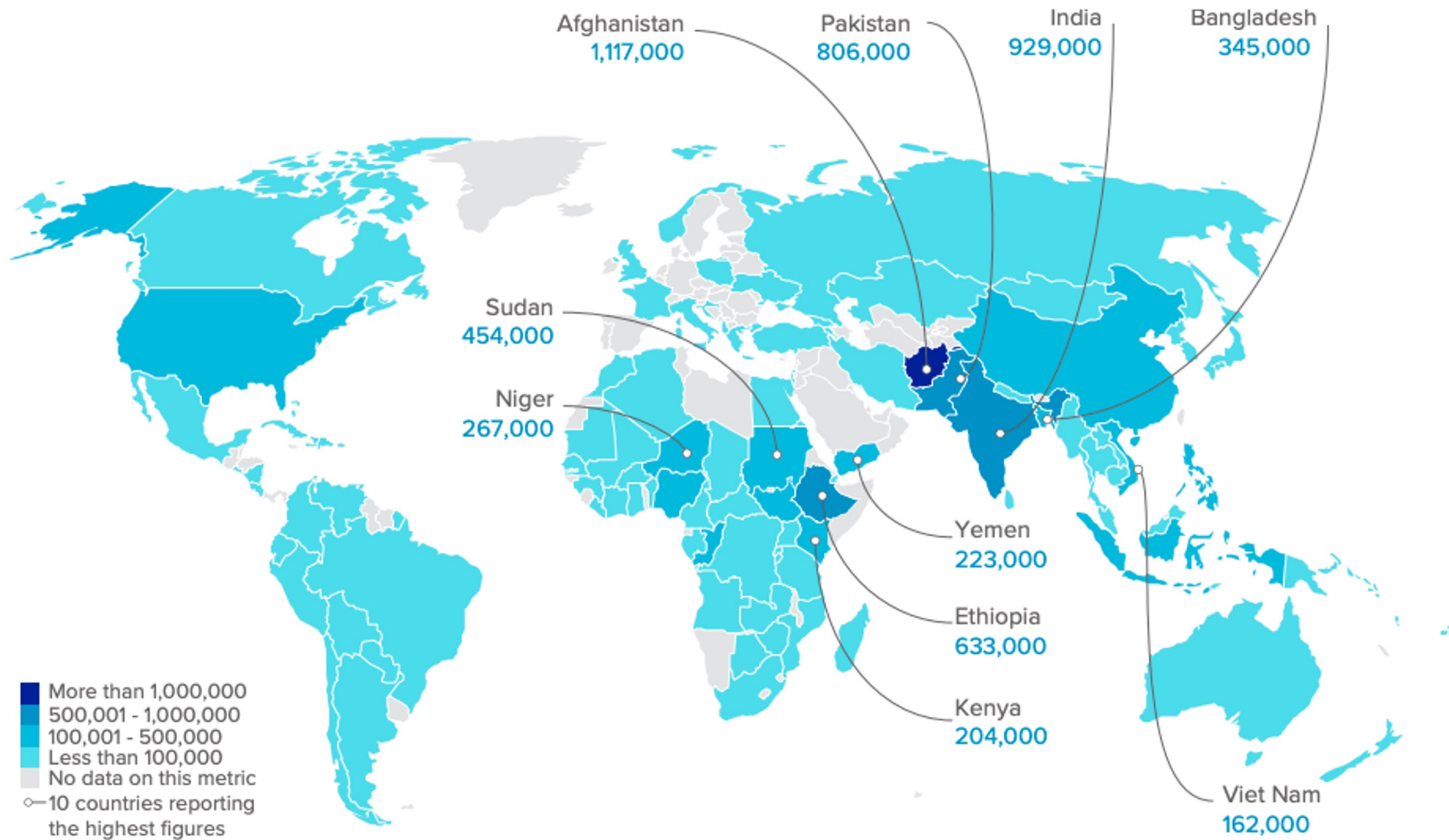
10 hours ago

UK climate change protests



<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-59105963>

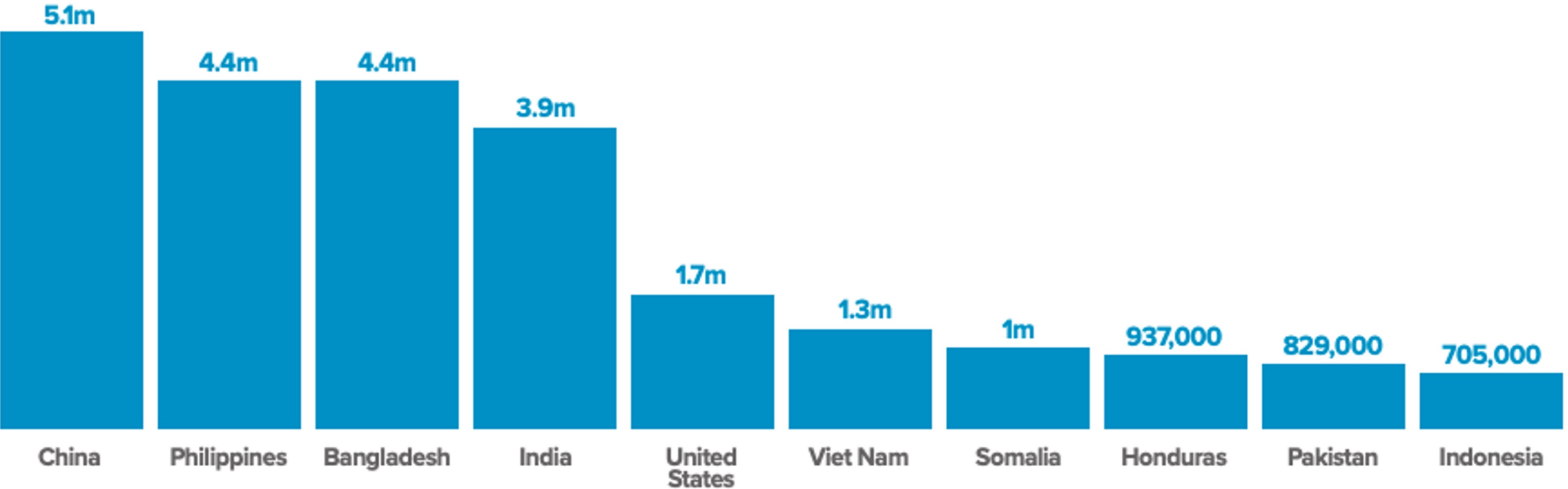
World Economic Forum  
Global Risk Report 2



**7 Million** people living in displacement as a result of disasters in **104** countries and territories as of **31 December 2020**

Source: IDMC (2021) [https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/gri-d2021\\_idmc.pdf#page=26?v=2](https://www.internal-displacement.org/sites/default/files/publications/documents/gri-d2021_idmc.pdf#page=26?v=2)

# 10 countries with most NEW displacements by disasters in 2020

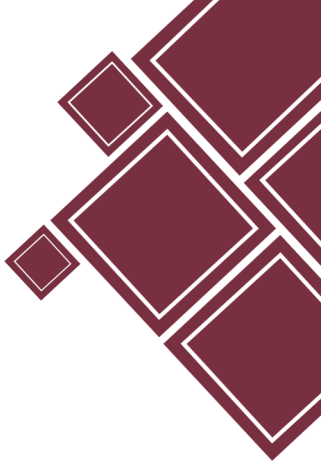


# Learning Objectives

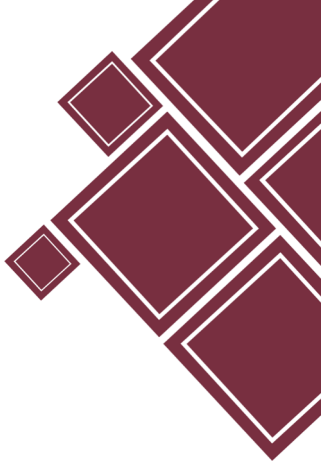
**Know** about the factors affecting the politics of post-disaster response

**Understand** the role & challenges of various actors and the politicisation of disaster response

**Critically discuss** recent experiences in Asia & the impact of Covid-19 on disaster response



# Session Outline



I. The Political Economy of Disasters

II. Disaster Politics & Challenges to Decision-Making

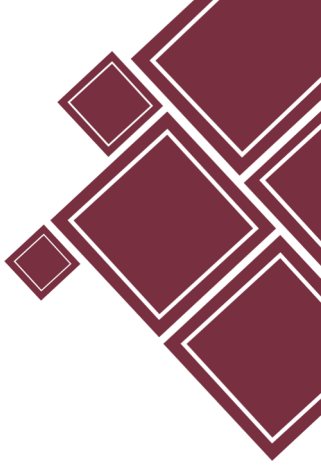
III. Political Considerations in Disaster Response

IV. Discussion on Experiences & Conclusions

## Preamble - Preparing for small group discussion...

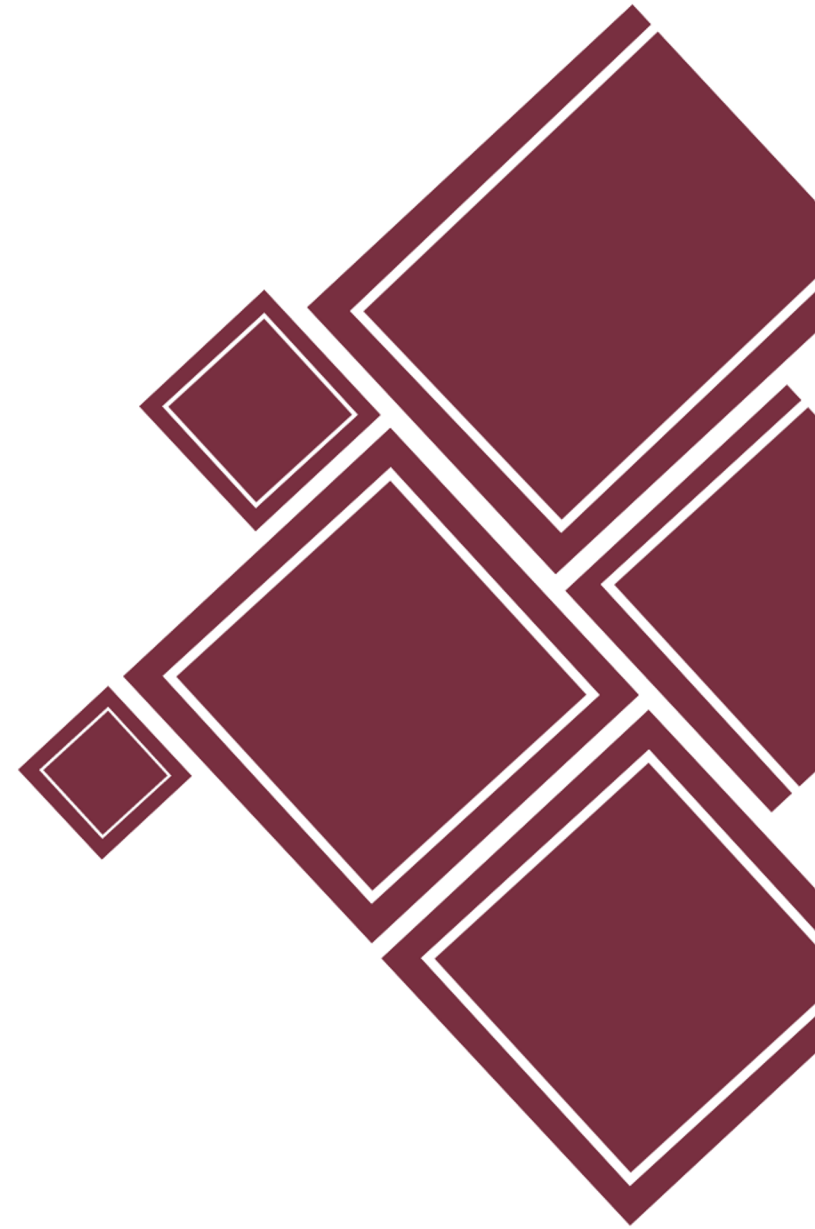
1. From your experience, what factors influenced who gets what during funding allocation (National vs International funding)
2. How has Covid-19 impacted on disaster financing in your country?

*Group debrief in the final plenary*

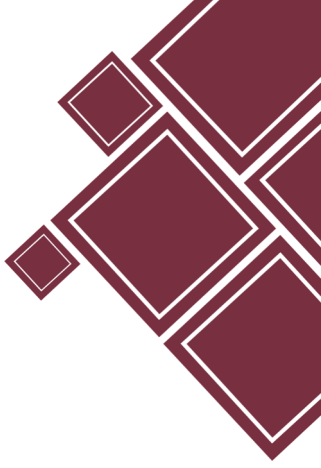




# I. The Political Economy of Disasters



# All Disasters Are Political /1



**Public Policy-making is a course of action taken by a government to solve collective problem through a process.**

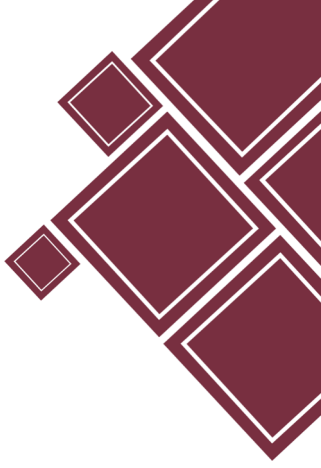
**Politics is the the process of establishing and carrying out public policy.**

The process of requesting, justifying and acquiring assistance for disasters is political.

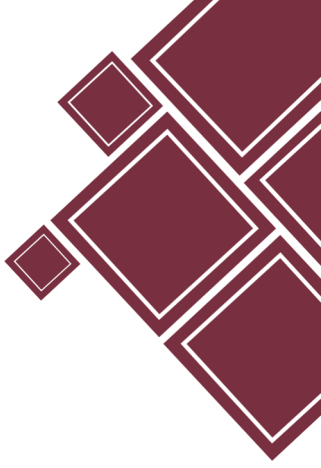
## All Disasters Are Political /2

Disasters involve public policy, decisions made by governments at all levels (on preparation, mitigation, management)

Disaster legislation also allows for special powers to be exercised by elected officials (to expedite assistance) in democratic systems.



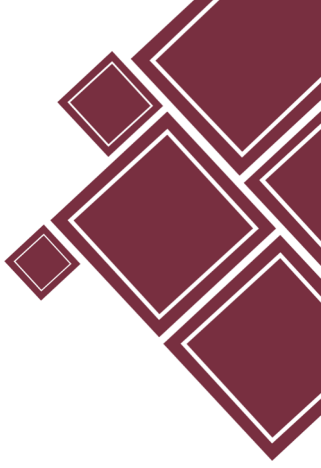
# A Proactive **Political Perspective**



**Addressing disaster  
response  
*proactively***



# Disaster Politics & Proactive Policy-Making/1

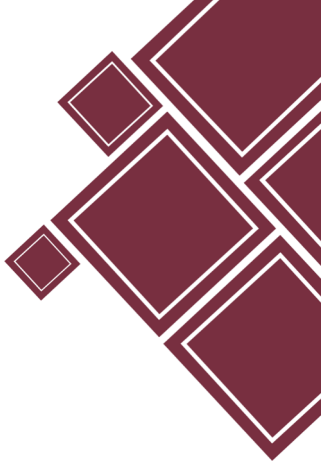


1. **Building on existing & creating NETWORKS** – Combining financial mechanisms and risk transfer instrument,
2. **Understanding PERCEPTIONS & BEHAVIORS** - Educate and raise awareness and knowledge about disaster risk and disaster politics. Understanding how behavioral patterns change after disasters.



**Compounded Disasters  
Tohoku, Japan, March 2011**

# Disaster Politics & Proactive Policy-Making/2

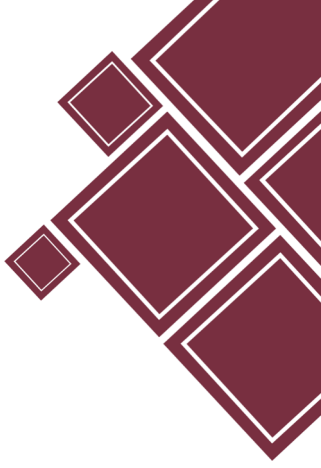


## **3. The role of INCENTIVES in rewarding initiatives –**

Public Private partnerships, risk pooling options, reduction of operating costs and removing implementation barriers (political, administrative, operational, social)

- Important to understand incentives & disincentives

# Disaster Politics & Proactive Policy-Making/3



## 4. Improving INFORMATION Flow

Targeted and timely information through *varied* channels

- What is the role of *mainstream and social media*?



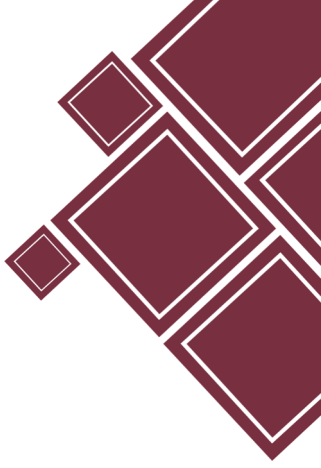
# Katmandu Nepal 2015

In the last 45 years,  
88% of the people  
affected by natural  
disasters globally  
lived in Asia-Pacific

(UNESCAP, 2015)



# Disaster Politics & Proactive Policy-Making/4



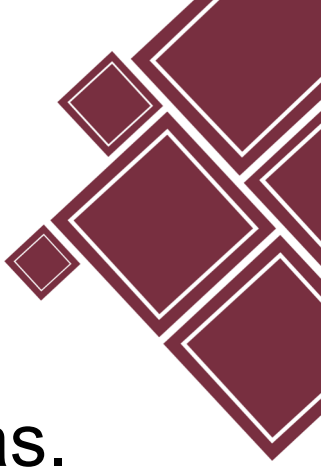
## 5. Ensuring ACCOUNTABILITY

Incentivize contextualized *downward* accountability  
(beyond humanitarian aid)

## 6. COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Connect larger approaches to local level initiatives,  
*throughout* the relief, recovery & development phases

# Cities and Disaster Risk

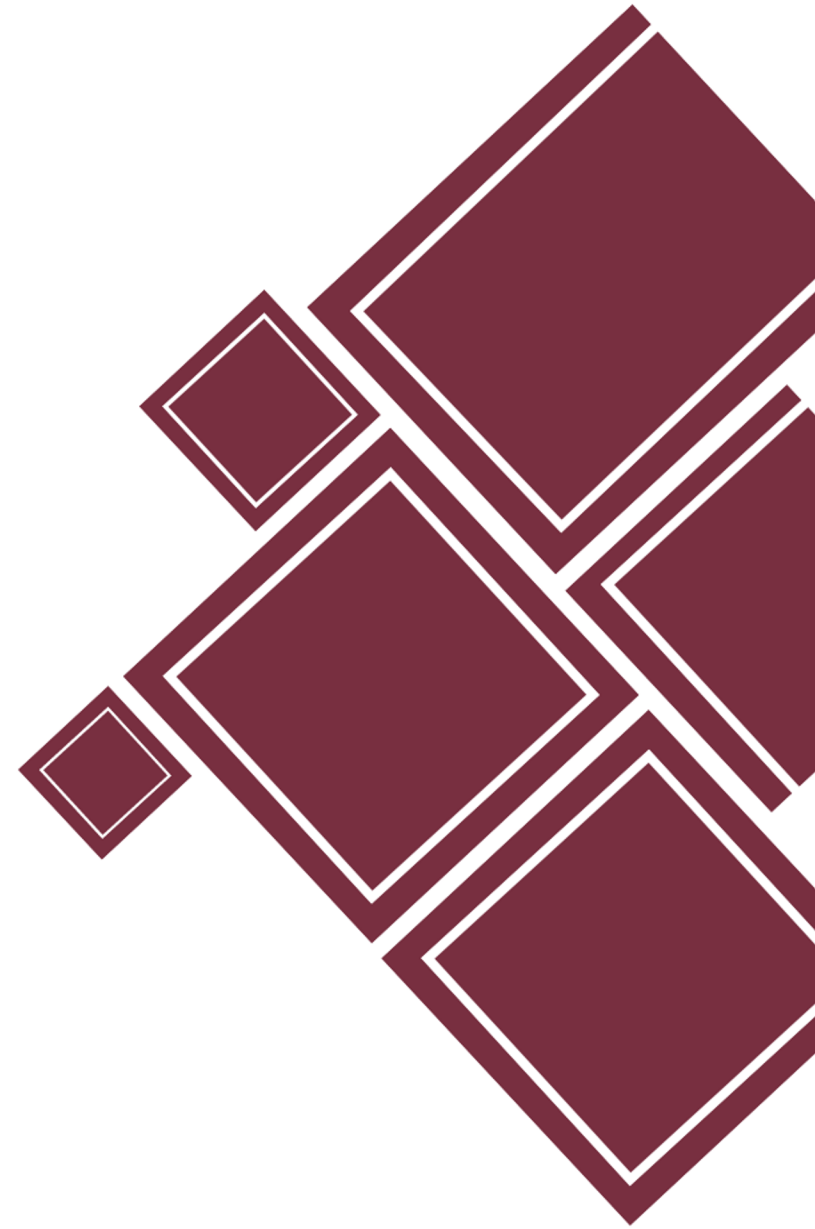


“By 2050, 70 % of the world’s population will live in urban areas. As cities continue to grow, exposure of lives, livelihoods and economic, social and environmental assets is set to increase exponentially.

The local level is the frontline of addressing disaster risk and is where significant gains can be made.”

(UNISDR, 2014)

## **II. Disaster Politics & Challenges to Decision- making**



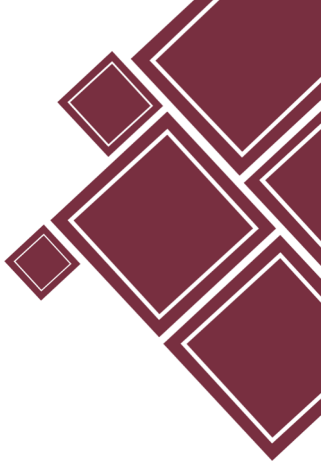
# Challenges in Decision Making



Policy decisions, even on technical issues, are often dominated by immediate imperatives and made on an ad hoc basis without careful consideration on longer term implications

Policy decisions can be hijacked by ideological obsessions or by the fantasies of political leaders

Policy decisions can be controlled by a small number of political executives or advisers



## 5 Barriers to Effective Decision-Making

Political  
Analytical  
Operational  
Social  
Bad Luck!

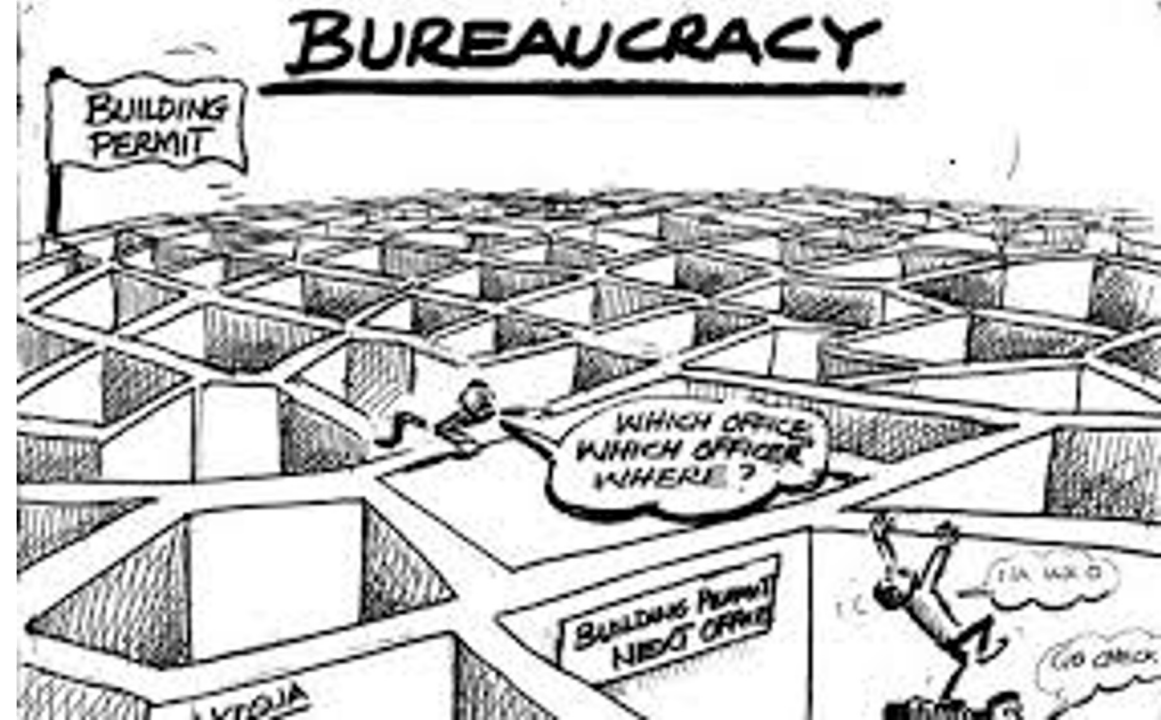
# Political Barriers

Slow authorization

Weak political support

Bureaucratic opposition

Poor implementer incentives



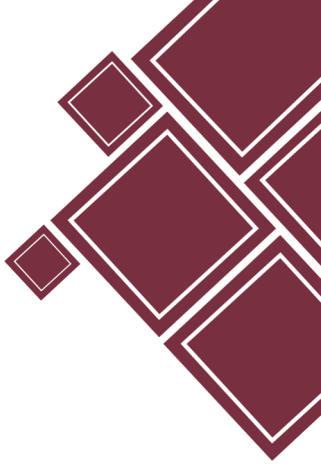
# Analytical Competence Barriers

Vague or multiple missions

Changing priorities

Poor design

Uneven feasibility





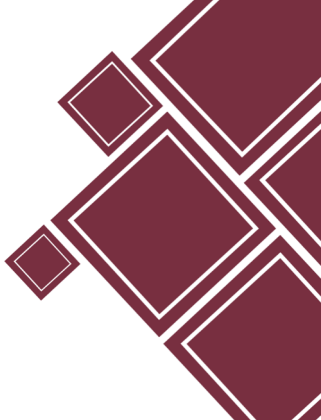
# Operational Capacity Barriers

Fund limitations

Weak management

Weak network coordination capacity

Lack of clarity in operational plans



# Social Barriers

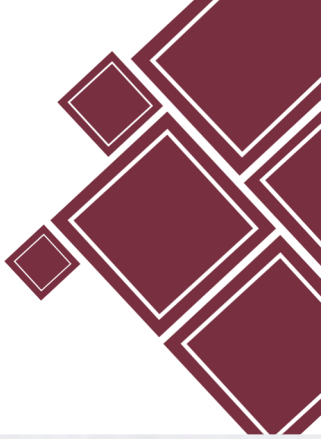
Values

Beliefs

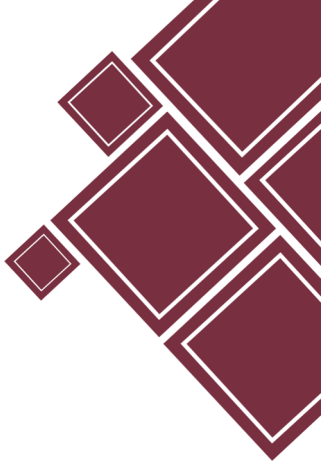
Religion

Behaviours

Culture



# Bad Luck!



Economic Crisis

Socio-political Crisis

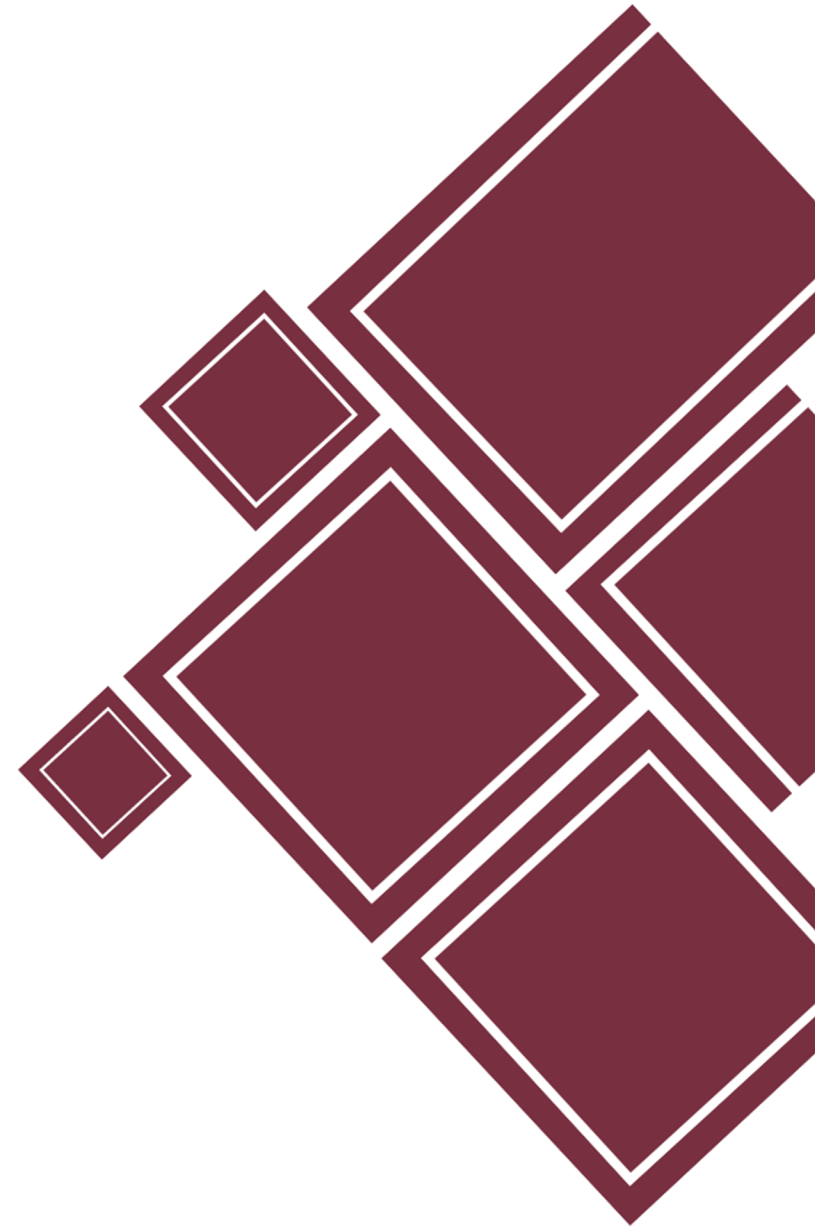
Security Crisis

Health Crisis

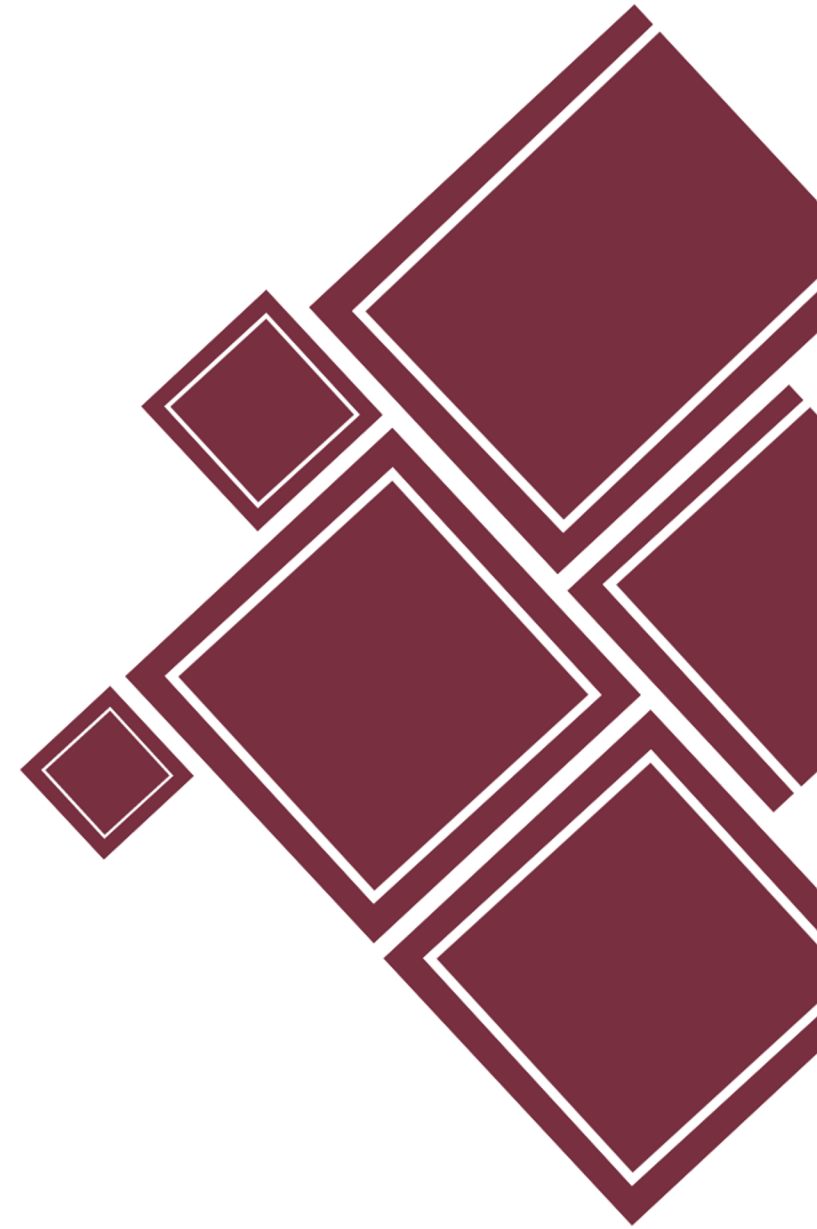


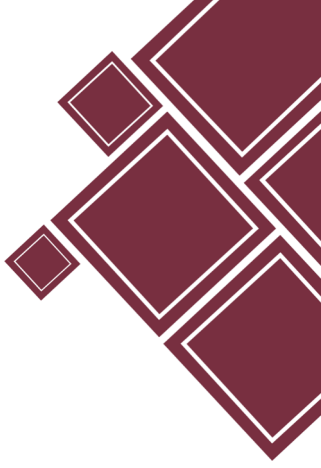
# III. Political Considerations in Disaster Response

Lessons from Indonesia



# The Indian Ocean Tsunami (2004)

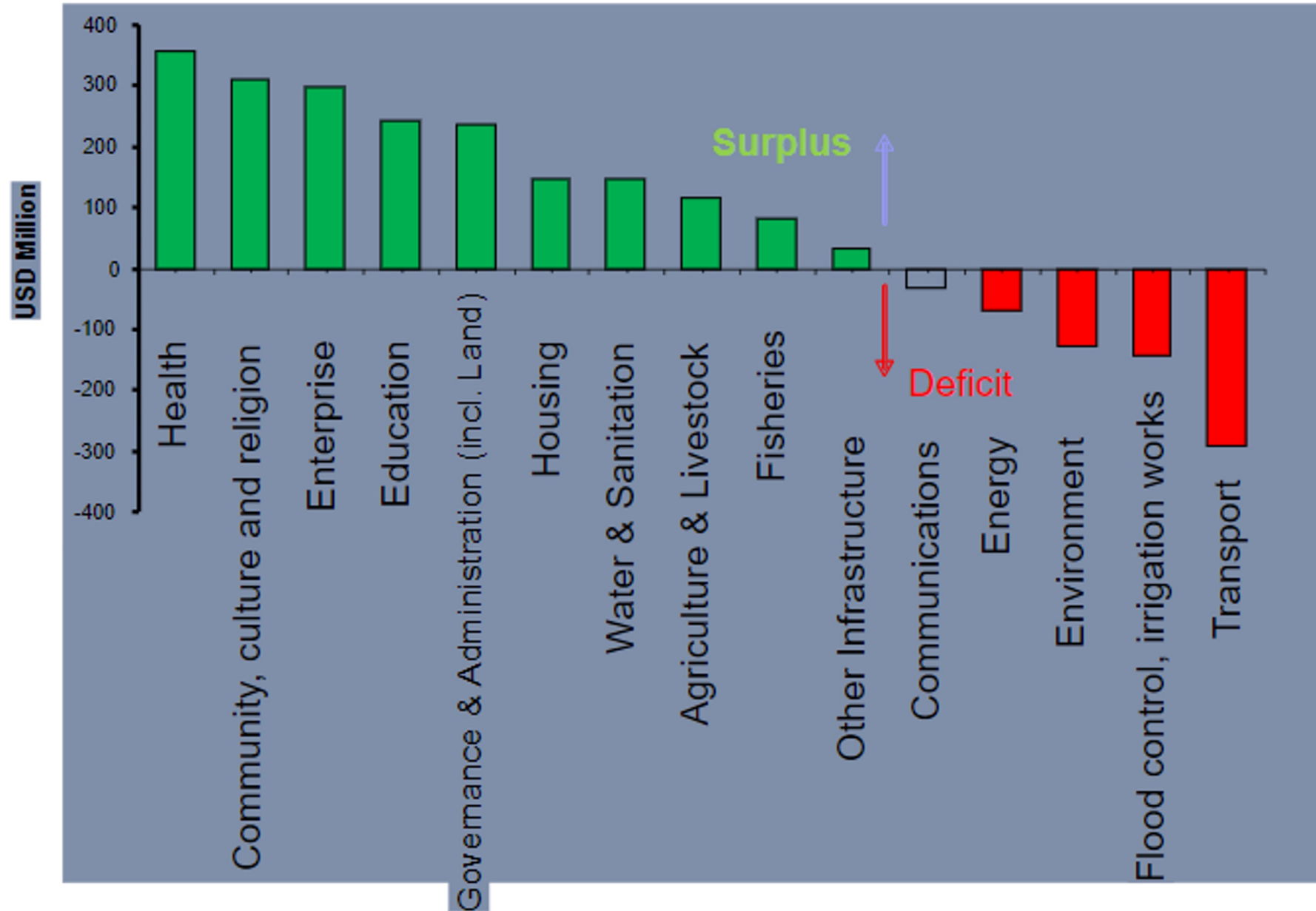




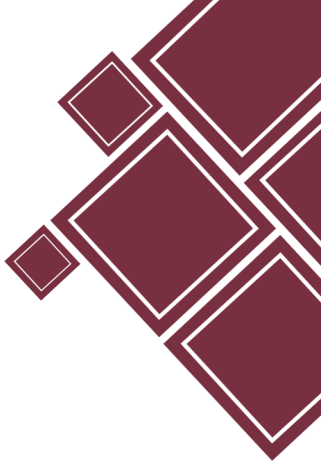
*“I used my own money to build a house,  
and the one that I was provided by an NGO, I rent to workers from outside who are building houses in the village for another NGO.” - Tsunami survivor*

Source: Daly and Brassard (2011)

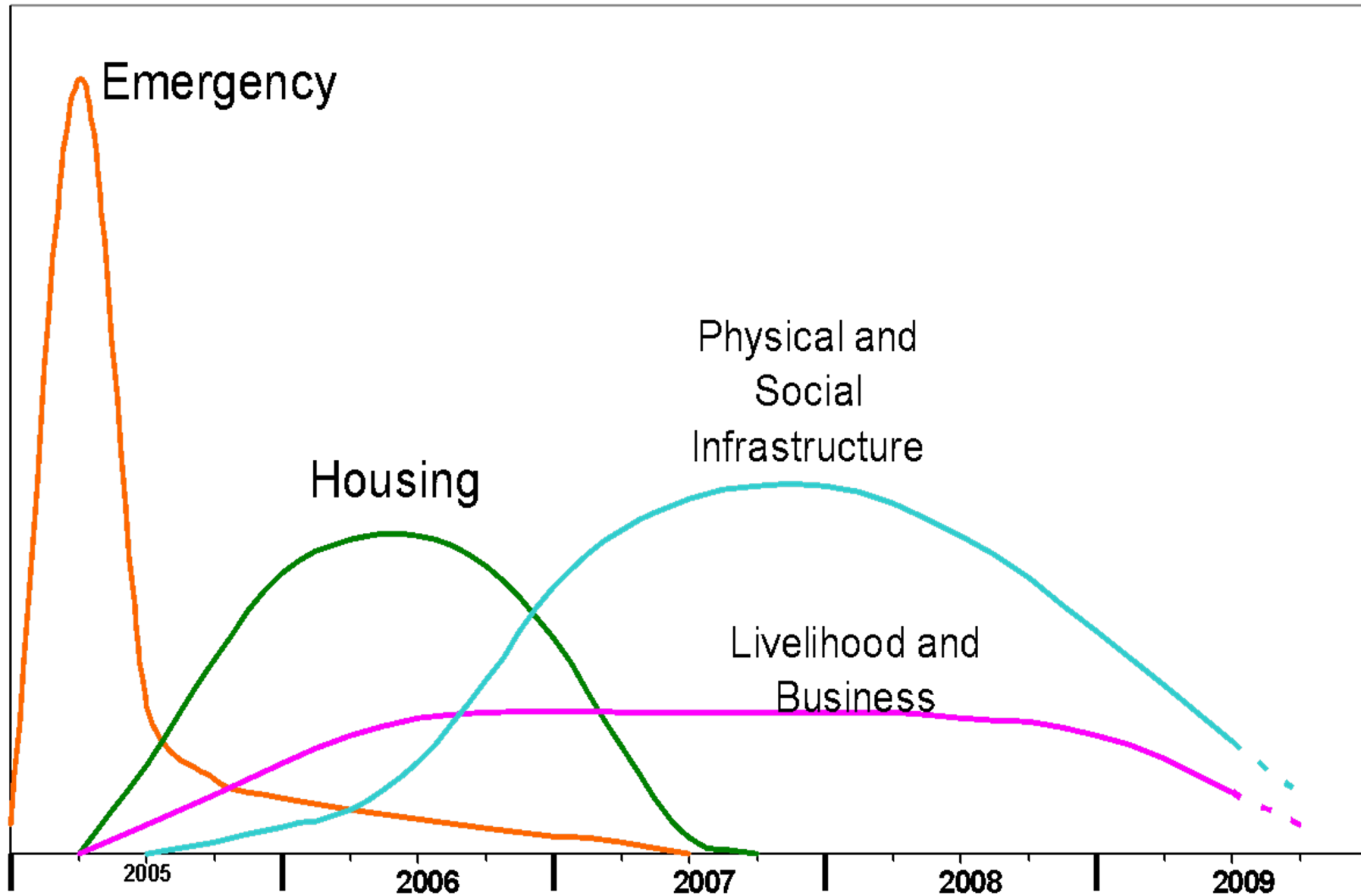
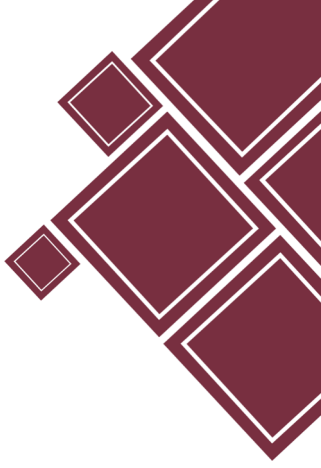
# The Story behind Sectoral Allocations and Gaps



Source: World Bank (2006)

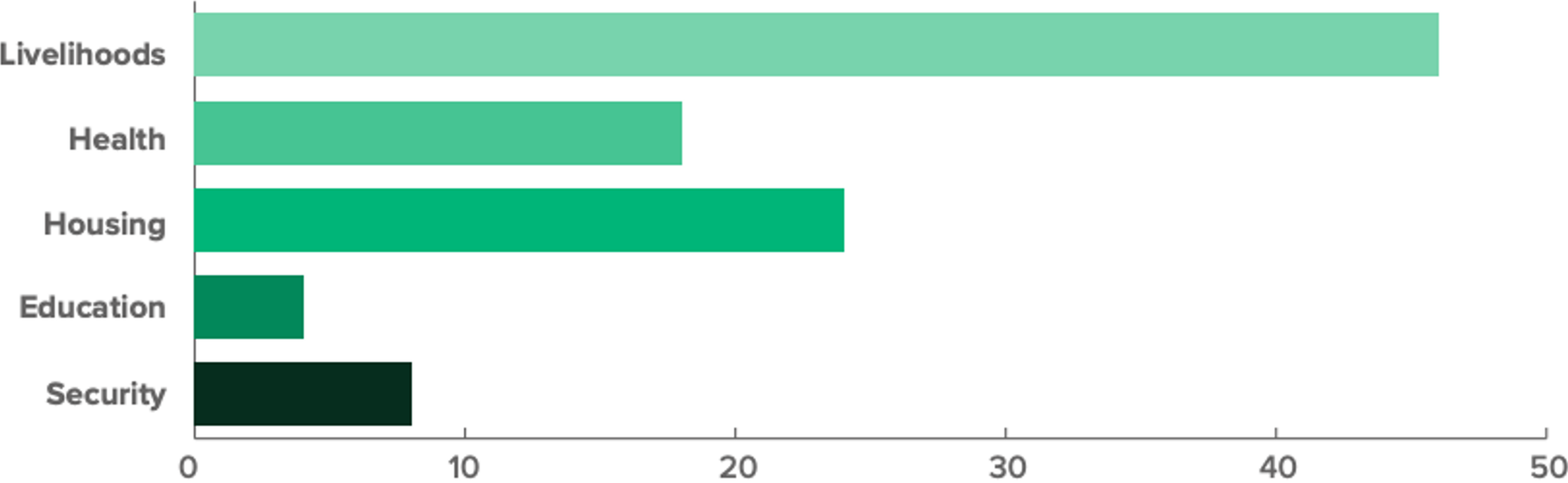
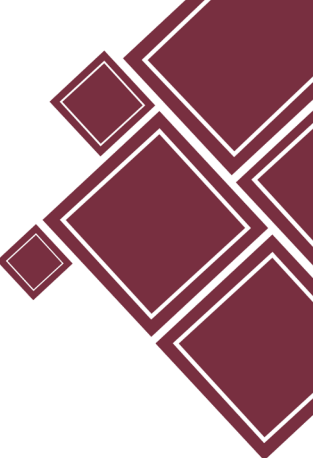


# Emergency and Sequencing of Efforts (Asian Tsunami 2004)

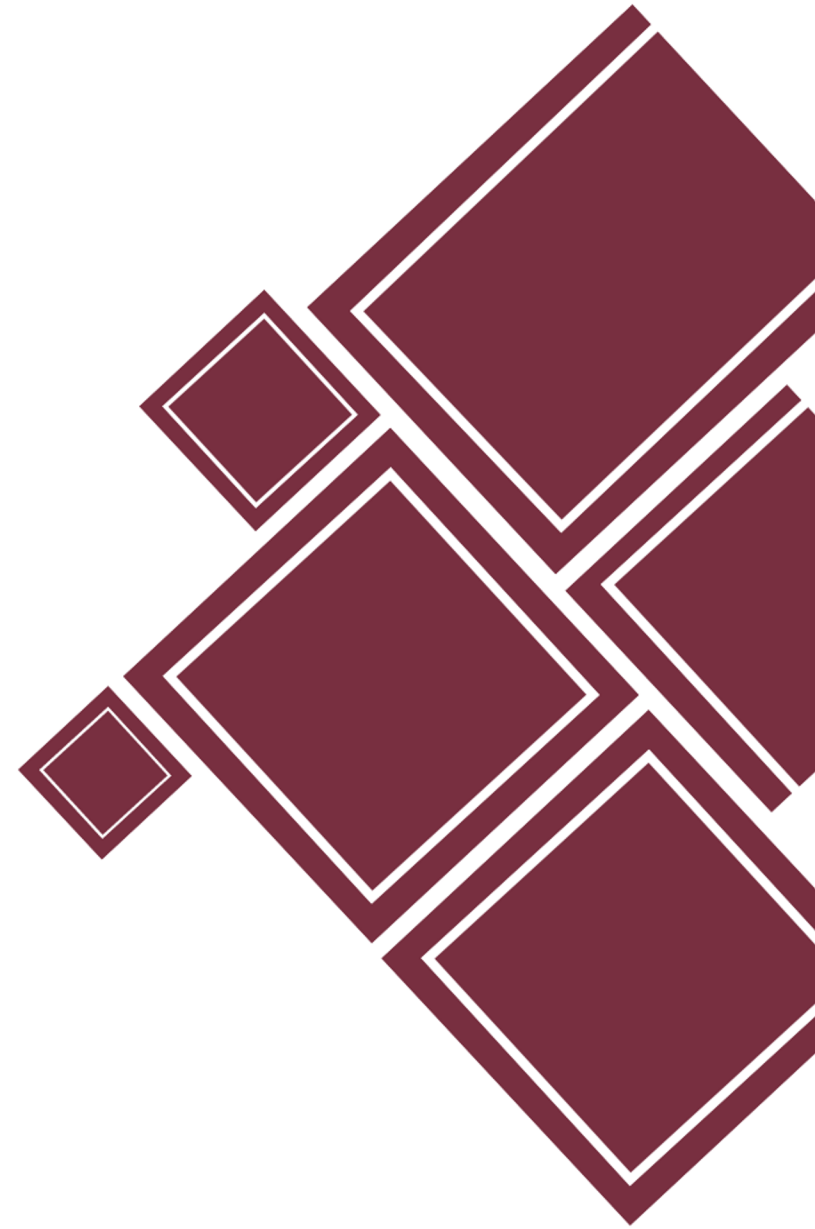




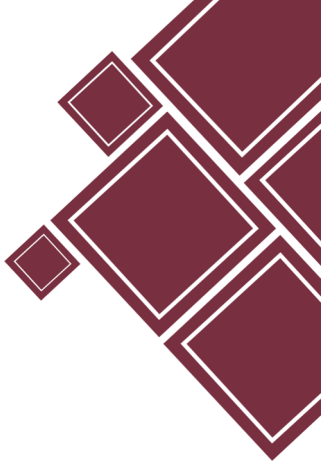
# Dimensions of Financial Burden of internal displacement



# **IV – Discussion on Experiences & Conclusions**



## Small group discussion – 15 mins

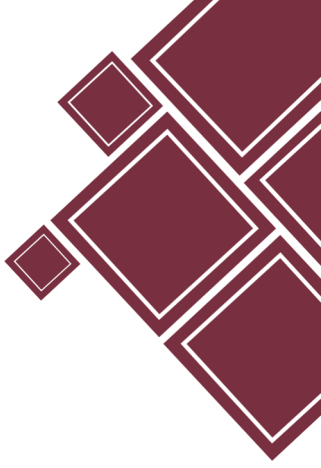


### Two Key Questions:

1. From your experience, what factors influenced who gets what during funding allocation (National vs International funding)
2. How has Covid-19 impacted on disaster financing in your country?

*One speaker per group will summarise the discussion in the plenary*

# Learning from 3 Case Studies

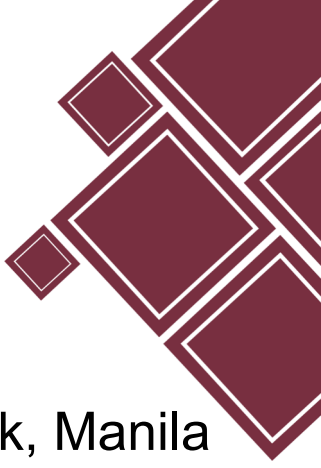


**Typhoon Yolanda (Philippines, 2013)**

**The Canterbury Earthquake (New Zealand, 2010)**

**Riskland: beyond commercial insurance (fictional)**

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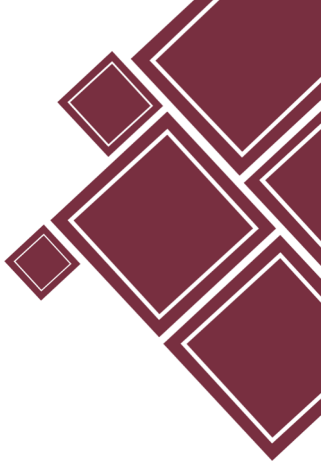
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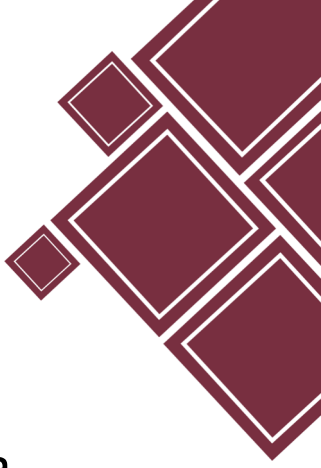
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Note the Politics of Disasters and disaster politics

Van Klinken, G (2020) Typhoon Disaster Politics in pre-1945 Asia: Three Case Studies, *Disaster Prevention and Management*, Vol. 30, No. 1. pp. 35-46.

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